AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as indicated hereafter.

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph starting on p. 2, line 2 with the following substitute paragraph:

a1

The present invention provides an apparatus and method for providing a modular system interface. The apparatus utilizes a main panel that is configured to be attachable to a rack and includes at least one sub-panel slot. At least one sub-panel is configured to be attachable to the main panel through the sub-panel slot, and the at least one sub-panel supports a predetermined connector.

Please replace the paragraph starting on p. 2, line 12 with the following substitute paragraph:

a2

The present invention can also be viewed as providing methods for providing a method for a modular system interface. In this regard, one embodiment of such a method, among others, can be broadly summarized by the following steps: (1) providing a main panel configured to be attachable to a rack and including at least one sub-panel slot; and (2) providing at least one sub-panel configured to be attachable to the main panel in the sub-panel slot, wherein the at least one sub-panel supports a predetermined connector.

Please replace the paragraph starting on p. 7, line 19 with the following substitute paragraph:

a3

Illustrated in FIG. 2 is a perspective view of an example of a main panel 31 of the modular system interface 30 of the present invention. The modular system interface 30 of

the present invention comprises a number of bolt-in sub-panels that will allow almost any type of connector to be mounted in the main panel 31 for access to standard and custom fixture resources. The sub-panels will allow for resource expansion if input/output requirements change. Unused cut-out 37 spaces can be covered utilizing a filler sub-panel. A feed-through hole 36 is also present in the main panel 31 to provide for easy pass-through of cables that cannot utilize a standardized connector in the sub-panel assembly.

a3

Please replace the paragraph starting on p. 8, line 11 with the following substitute paragraph:

Illustrated in FIG. 3 is a perspective view of an example of a dual DB9 connector sub-panel assembly 50. The dual DB9 connector sub-panel assembly 50 consists of a dual DB9 sub-panel 51 that includes a cut-out for the two DB9 connectors 52. Illustrated is a male connector, however, it is contemplated by the inventors that any type of DB9 connector, male or female, may be used. In order to attach the DB9 connector 52 to the dual DB9 sub-panel 51, a locking or anti-rotation washer 53, hexnut 54 and jack screw 55 are utilized. The screw 55 is inserted into the dual DB9 sub-panel 51 through a support hole in the DB9 connector 52 to enable the washer 53 and hexnut 54 to be fastened to the screw 55. The dual DB9 sub-panel assembly 50 is then connected to the main panel 31 of the modular system interface 30 of the present invention, utilizing the attaching means 59. The attaching means 59 may be a hole for a screw, snap-clip or other type of attaching means to enable the dual DB9 sub-panel assembly 50 to be attached to the main panel 31 of the modular system interface 30.

a4